

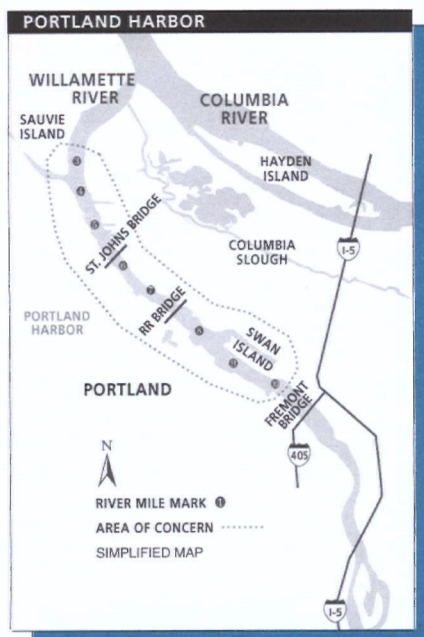


About the Site

Portland Harbor was added to the EPA National Priorities List of contaminated sites in December 2000. Contamination in river sediments resulted from more than a century of historical industrial use along the river.

Sediments in the Willamette River are contaminated with many different hazardous substances, including heavy metals like mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxin/furans, and pesticides.

The site is located in and along the Willamette River near Portland, Oregon. The initial study area is the section of river between Swan and Sauvie Islands. The final Superfund site boundaries will be established when the extent of contamination is found.



What You Can Do

Good cleanup decisions address community concerns. You can stay informed about the EPA investigation and cleanup by adding your name to the project mailing list, looking at documents on the EPA website, or attending meetings of the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group. Check their website at: <http://www.portlandharborcag.org>.

For More Information

EPA Community Involvement
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DEQ Project Coordination
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 (503) 229-6590

EPA: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/PtldHarbor>
DEQ: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/PortlandHarbor/ph.htm>

Portland Information repositories:
St. Johns Branch Library
 7510 N. Charleston Avenue
Northwest Branch Library
 2300 N.W. Thurman St.
Multnomah County Library
 801 S.W. 10th Avenue



To request reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities, please call Judy Smith.

Cleaning Up The Portland Harbor Superfund Site



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



January 2005

What is being done?

Investigation — Cleanup begins with a thorough study of the contaminated site. The study now under way, called a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS), is scheduled for completion in 2007.

The remedial investigation will look at river and sediment characteristics, find out the type, location and quantity of contamination, and will gather other necessary information to help evaluate risks to people and wildlife. The feasibility study will evaluate cleanup alternatives and recommend one.

Early Actions — When problem spots are identified, EPA will initiate action to remove contamination from these specific sites while the investigation is under way. The Port of Portland and Northwest Natural Gas were first to enter early action agreements with EPA.

Portland Harbor, Fish and Your Health

During the past few years, scientists collected and analyzed tissue samples from fish and other aquatic life in Portland Harbor. They examined this data to find out if the contamination is being stored in the tissues of the fish.

Fish collected from Portland Harbor had elevated levels of contaminants such as PCBs and mercury. This fish tissue information will be used to complete the human health and ecological risk assessments for Portland Harbor. The Oregon Department of Human Services also used the information to update the fish consumption advisories for the Willamette River in 2004.

Who is doing the Study?

Ten potentially responsible parties, known as the Lower Willamette Group (LWG), have entered legal agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency to complete a remedial investigation and feasibility study for Portland Harbor.

In 2004, EPA approved the work plan and field sampling plans, which explain the tasks that need to be completed for the RI/FS and set a schedule for completing the work.

Who is providing Oversight?

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- The Nez Perce Tribe
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Department of the Interior

